

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for displaying and/or manipulating medical image data, the method comprising:

(a) providing receiving, with a medical image viewer in compliance with a medical image standard and comprising medical-image-standard-compliant software; (b) providing a file in compliance with the medical image standard to the medical image viewer, wherein the medical image standard specifies a first field for data not in compliance with the medical image standard and a second field for data in compliance with the medical image standard, wherein the first field of the file comprises medical image data and the second field of the file comprises information that can be used to obtain software to at least one of display and manipulate the medical image data;

(b) with the medical-image-standard-compliant software, reading, from the second field, the information that can be used to obtain software to at least one of display and manipulate the medical image data;

(c) obtaining the software identified by the information in the second field; and

(d) performing at least one of the following with the software obtained in (c):

displaying the medical image data and manipulating the medical image data.

2. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim 1, wherein the information in the second field of the file comprises a message instructing a user how to obtain the software to at least one of display and manipulate the medical image data.
3. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim 1, wherein the information in the second field of the file comprises a link to a network location storing the software to at least one of display and manipulate the medical image data, and wherein the software is obtained in (c) in response to a user selecting the link.
4. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim 1, wherein the information in the second field of the file identifies a network location storing the software to at least one of display and manipulate the medical image data, and wherein the software is obtained in (c) without user action.
5. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim 1 further comprising charging a fee to a user for the software to at least one of display and manipulate the medical image data.
6. (Original) The invention of Claim 1, wherein the medical image data comprises ultrasound data.
7. (Original) The invention of Claim 1, wherein the medical image data is selected from the group consisting of RF data, pre-scan converted data, pre-reconstruction data, and a three-dimensional data set.

8. (Original) The invention of Claim 1, wherein the medical image standard comprises DICOM.

9. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim 8, wherein the first field of the medical image standard comprises a DICOM private attribute, and wherein the second field of the medical image standard comprises a DICOM standard attribute.

10. (Original) The invention of Claim 1, wherein (d) comprises displaying the medical image data.

11. (Original) The invention of Claim 1, wherein (d) comprises manipulating the medical image data.

12. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim 1, wherein the file is provided to received by the medical image viewer via one of the following: a network, removable media, and a wireless transmission.

13. (Currently Amended) A medical image viewer comprising:
a display device;
a processor; and
a storage device storing:

a file in compliance with a medical image standard, wherein the medical image standard specifies a first field for data not in compliance with the medical image standard and a second field for data in compliance with the medical image standard, wherein the first field of the file comprises medical image data and the second field of the file comprises information that can be used to obtain software to at least one of display and manipulate the medical image data; and

medical-image-standard-compliant software that, when executed by the processor, is operative to read from the second field, the information that can be used to obtain software to at least one of display and manipulate the medical image data;
wherein the processor is operative to obtain the software identified by the information in the second field and perform at least one of the following with the software identified by the information: displaying the medical image data and manipulating the medical image data.

14. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim 13, wherein the information in the second field of the file comprises a message instructing a user how to obtain the software to at least one of display and manipulate the medical image data.

15. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim 13, wherein the information in the second field of the file comprises a link to a network location storing the software to at least one of display and manipulate the medical image data, and wherein the processor obtains the software to at least one of display and manipulate the medical image data in response to a user selecting the link.

16. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim 13, wherein the information in the second field of the file identifies a network location storing the software to at least one of display and manipulate the medical image data, and wherein the processor obtains the software to at least one of display and manipulate the medical image data without user action.

17. (Original) The invention of Claim 13, wherein the medical image data comprises ultrasound data.

18. (Original) The invention of Claim 13, wherein the medical image data is selected from the group consisting of RF data, pre-reconstruction data, and a three-dimensional data set.

19. (Original) The invention of Claim 13, wherein the medical image standard comprises DICOM.

20. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim 19, wherein the first field of the medical image standard comprises a DICOM private attribute, and wherein the second field of the medical image standard comprises a DICOM standard attribute.

21. (Original) The invention of Claim 13, wherein the processor is operative to display the medical image data.

22. (Original) The invention of Claim 13, wherein the processor is operative to manipulate the medical image data.

23. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim 13, wherein the file is provided to received by the medical image viewer via one of the following: a network, removable media, and a wireless transmission.

24. (Currently Amended) A method for displaying and/or manipulating medical image data, the method comprising:

(a) providing receiving, with a DICOM-compliant medical image viewer comprising DICOM-compliant software, (b) providing a file in compliance with DICOM to the medical image viewer, wherein the file comprises a DICOM private attribute field comprising non-DICOM-compliant medical image data and a DICOM standard attribute field comprising information that can be used to obtain software to at least one of display and manipulate the medical image data;

(b) with the DICOM-compliant software, reading, from the second field, the information that can be used to obtain software to at least one of display and manipulate the medical image data;

(c) obtaining the software identified by the information in the second field; and

(d) performing at least one of the following with the software obtained in (c):

displaying the medical image data and manipulating the medical image data.

25. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim 24, wherein the information in the second field of the file comprises one of the following: a message instructing a user how to obtain the software to at least one of display and manipulate the medical image data, a link to a network

location storing the software to at least one of display and manipulate the medical image data, and an identification of a network location storing the software to at least one of display and manipulate the medical image data.

26. (Original) The invention of Claim 24, wherein the medical image data is selected from the group consisting of ultrasound data, RF data, pre-reconstruction data, and a three-dimensional data set.

27. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim 24, wherein the file is provided to received by the medical image viewer via one of the following: a network, removable media, and a wireless transmission.